The amenokal, who at first had supreme command, later had to yield some power to the benefit of some chiefs and give them special "tobols" with some amr'id tribes, which did not pay the tioussé to him but paid it to the chiefs of the new "tobols." This was a source of continual arguments and wars (see the historical section, Book Two /not translated/), and one thinks in spite of oneself of, "Who made you a count?" and the answer, "Who made you king?" /53/

Before the French occupation of the Saharan Oases, each tobol had its own independant life, and the amenokal, or supreme chief, did not interfere in any way in the internal government of the "tobols." He only intervened, with the agreement of the djemaâ, to straighten out disagreements which might arise between tribes or to call to arms all tribes of the confederation against a common enemy, as during the war between Azdjer and Ahaggar.

The chief of each "tobol," of each noble tribe, or of each imr'ad fraction, all indiscriminately bore the title of "amr'ar", which means primarily "old man," like the Arab word "cheikh," all the meanings of which it carries. Thus, the chief of the tobol of the Taïtoq bore the title of amr'ar. For reasons of a political nature, the title of amenokal was conferred on him, which brings to two the number of amenokal of the Ahaggar confederation.

Thus the amenokal was the supreme chief of the confederation, and at the same time chief of his "tobol," while the amr'ar was the chief of a less important "tobol" of an imr'ad tribe.